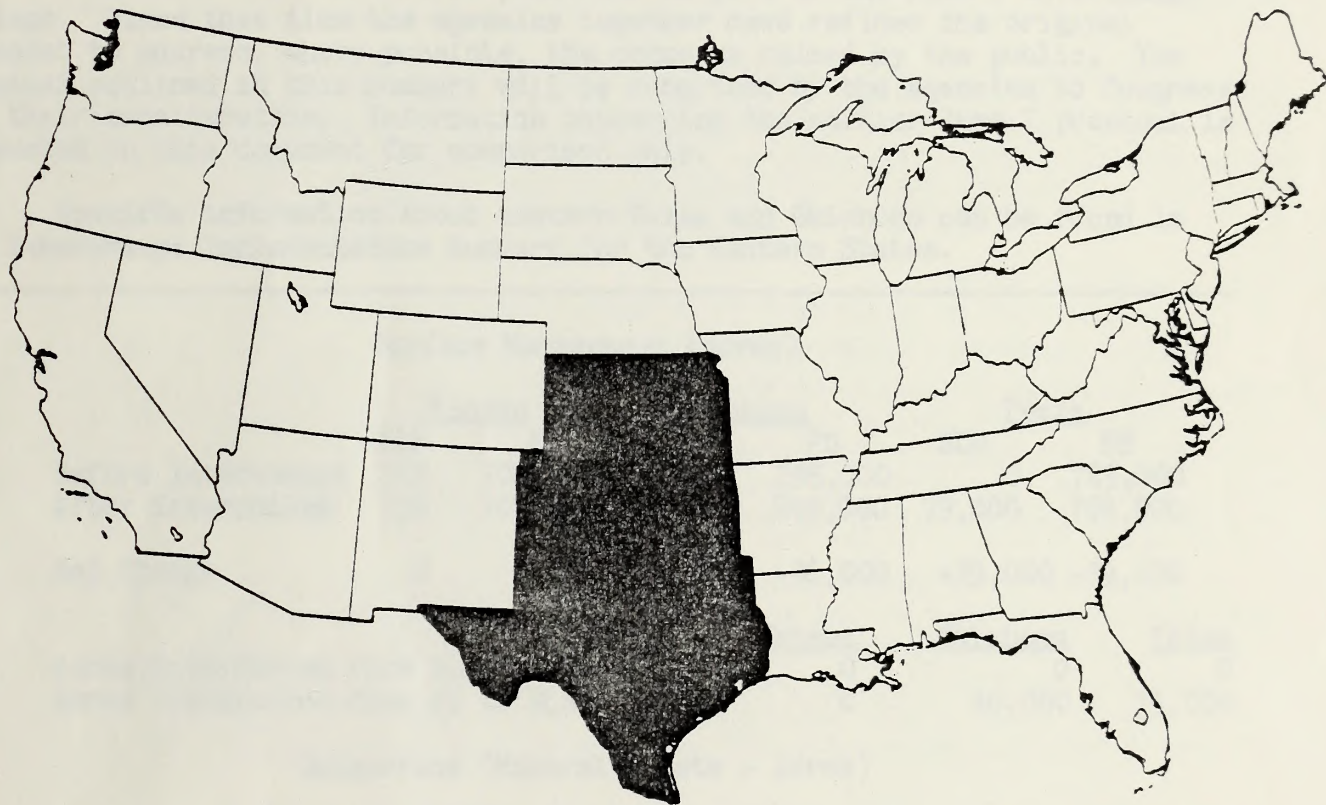




BLM/FS INTERCHANGE

Summary

OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, KANSAS



PREPARED BY:

Southern Region

Rocky Mountain Region

FOREST SERVICE

New Mexico State Office

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



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INTERCHANGE IMPLEMENTATION SUMMARY
STATES OF OKLAHOMA, TEXAS, AND KANSAS

I. OVERVIEW

The following summarizes the proposed Interchange for the States of Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas. This summary includes a review of the public involvement, the proposed action, the anticipated costs and savings, and the actions identified during the study that can be taken independently of the Interchange. More detailed information is available for review in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) State Office in Santa Fe, NM, or Forest Service (FS) Regional Offices in Atlanta, GA, (for OK and TX) in Albuquerque, NM (for National Grasslands in OK and TX) and Denver, CO (for KS).

State summaries were first published as part of the June 7 Interchange package. Since that time the agencies together have refined the original proposal to address, where possible, the concerns raised by the public. The proposal outlined in this summary will be submitted by the agencies to Congress for their consideration. Information concerning the earlier June 7 proposal is presented in this document for comparison only.

Specific information about eastern Texas and Oklahoma can be found in the Interchange Implementation Summary for the Eastern States.

Surface Management (acres)

	<u>Kansas</u>		<u>Oklahoma</u>		<u>Texas</u>	
	BLM	FS	BLM	FS	BLM	FS
Before Interchange	728	108,000	6,000	295,000	0	783,000
After Interchange	728	108,000	52,000	249,000	79,000	704,000
Net Change	0	0	+46,000	-46,000	+79,000	-79,000
				<u>Kansas</u>	<u>Oklahoma</u>	<u>Texas</u>
Acres transferred from BLM to FS				0	0	0
Acres transferred from FS to BLM				0	46,000	79,000

Subsurface (Mineral Estate - Acres)

	<u>Kansas</u>		<u>Oklahoma</u>		<u>Texas</u>	
	BLM	FS	BLM	FS	BLM	FS
Before Interchange	588,000	0	2,350,000*	0**	3,526,000	0**
After Interchange	469,000	119,000	1,971,000	379,000	2,917,000	609,000

* Estimated

**Does not include FS minerals

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II. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public involvement has been an integral part of refining the original Interchange proposal. BLM and FS representatives conducted numerous briefings plus public meetings in Clayton, NM, and Cheyenne, OK, to provide information and collect comments. They shared information on the proposal with the Governors of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, and the staffs of the Oklahoma Congressional delegation.

Thirty eight responses to the Interchange proposal originated in these states during the formal public review, June 7 to July 8. Only four addressed specific proposals in the states, some favored them and some opposed them. The comments were reviewed, but did not result in any changes to the June 7 proposal.

The majority of the commenters generally concentrated on aspects of the Interchange proposal other than boundary changes, such as the possible sale of interchanged lands, differences in range management practices between the two agencies, and specific concerns on recreation management. These issues have been addressed at the national level through the proposed legislation.

III. PROPOSED ACTION

All communities that currently house a FS or BLM office or both would continue to house an agency office after the Interchange, with the exception of 1) Cheyenne, OK, where the present Black Kettle Ranger District Office would be merged into the BLM Oklahoma Resource Area Office in Oklahoma City, and 2) Texline, TX, where the present Rita Blanca Ranger District Office would be consolidated with the Kiowa Ranger Station in Clayton, NM.

As a result of the Interchange, the BLM Tulsa District Office would have jurisdiction over most of the public lands currently administered by the BLM plus National Forest System lands in the States of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and northeastern New Mexico. The exceptions would be the Cimarron National Grasslands in Kansas, plus public lands currently administered by the BLM and National Forest System lands in 17 counties in Texas and Oklahoma.

The FS would assume Federal lands and minerals management responsibility in McCurtain and LeFlore Counties in Oklahoma and the following 15 counties in Texas: Angelino, Fannin, Houston, Jasper, Montgomery, Montague, Nacagdoches, Newton, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Walker and Wise. The BLM would assume management responsibility for the Rita Blanca, Black Kettle, and McClellan Creek National Grasslands in Texas and Oklahoma, presently administered by the Cibola National Forest in Albuquerque, NM.

In Kansas the only change would concern minerals management. The Cimarron National Grasslands would remain with the FS, and the FS would assume Federal minerals responsibilities on the underlying 119,000 acres.

A. Communities Affected

In Kansas, there would be no change.

In Oklahoma, the Black Kettle Ranger District Office would merge into the BLM Oklahoma Resource Area Office in Oklahoma City. A temporary office would be maintained in Cheyenne.

In Texas, the Rita Blanca Ranger District Office in Texline would be consolidated with the Kiowa Ranger District Office in Clayton, NM, (now 11 miles apart) and made into a satellite office of the Oklahoma Resource Area Office in Oklahoma City.

B. Office and Staffing Changes

There are currently 58 FS and 62 BLM permanent positions in Oklahoma, 229 FS and no BLM permanent positions in Texas, and 3 FS positions in Kansas. We estimate a reduction of 7 employees as result of the Interchange. The net reduction in staffing as compared to total employment is such that both agencies expect to accomplish the reduction through attrition without having to take adverse personnel actions.

The following table identifies communities that would be impacted and actions proposed for each community, plus staffing changes of three or more by location:

Community	Existing Offices	<u>Proposed Changes</u>		<u>Net Staff Change</u>	
		June 7	Revised	June 7	Revised
Cheyenne, OK	FS RD	--	--	- 4	- 4
Texline, TX	FS RD	--	--	- 3	- 3
Net change:				- 7	- 7

Note: FS RD = Ranger District

C. Lands and Minerals

The BLM New Mexico State Office would continue to provide all records and adjudicative support for its areas of jurisdiction in the three states. Seven minerals positions would be shifted to the FS as a result of its assumption of minerals management responsibilities in the 17 counties in Oklahoma and Texas.

D. Public Service

Public service has already been enhanced in Kansas by switching the administering office from Canon City, CO, to Tulsa, OK. The reason this is an improvement relates to the history of minerals management in that area: the Minerals Management Service in Tulsa had jurisdiction over Kansas, and when the service was merged into the BLM the employees became BLM employees. The change in administering offices provides that the same employees, already familiar with Kansas, will again work with permittees in that State.

In both Oklahoma and Texas, FS and BLM management would be improved by consolidating areas of responsibility near existing offices. In the minerals area particularly, the BLM Tulsa Office and the FS offices in Texas and Arkansas are well staffed in the appropriate minerals disciplines and would be able to provide quality public service.

IV. ANTICIPATED COSTS AND SAVINGS

A. 5 year Implementation Costs

Personnel costs	\$187,000
Space costs	0
Other costs	134,000
Total costs	\$321,000

B. Savings the First 5 Years

Personnel savings	\$471,000
Space savings	18,000
Other savings	0
Total savings	\$489,000

C. Average Annual Savings After Full Implementation--\$222,000
(Most would result from savings from reduced personnel.)

V. ACTIONS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INDEPENDENTLY OF INTERCHANGE

The transfer of administration responsibility for Kansas from the BLM Canon City Office to the BLM Tulsa Office is one example of a move independent of Interchange that has already increased efficiency and improved public service. The BLM and the FS should continue their usual practice of jointly considering and studying opportunities for more efficient management and public service. No Interchange actions that would be irreversible will be taken before legislation is passed.

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